AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Currently Amended) A computer system, comprising
- a local network domain of communicating computers;
- a first connection for communication with an external network;
- a first gate device coupled between the local network domain and the first connection,
wherein the first which gate device is configured arranged to check a file files sent from the local network domain to the first connection for whether the file contains they contain a security tag, and either
(a) to send or not send on the each file to the first connection only if the security tag is not found to be present in the file, or
(b) to block the sending of the file to the first connection if no security tag is found to be present in the filedepending on detection of the presence or absence of the security tag in the file.

2.   (Currently Amended) A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the first gate device is arranged to block sending on of the file if the security tag is present in the file.

3.   (Previously Presented) A computer system according to claim 1, wherein the communicating computers are arranged to encrypt a substantial part of the file when providing the security tag.

4.   (Currently Amended) A gate device with a coupling for connection of a local network and a connection for an external network, wherein the which gate device is configured arranged to check a file files sent from the local network to the connection for whether the file contains they contain a security tag, and either

(a) to send or not send on the each file to the connection only if the security tag is not found to be present in the file, or

(b) to block the sending of the file to the connection if no security tag is found to be present depending on detection of the presence or absence of the security tag in the file.

5.   (Currently Amended) A method for protecting information transport from a local network to an external network, which method comprises the steps of

—providing a security tag in selected files filed;

—examining the files sent by a gate device of the local network to the external network for the presence of the security tags; and either

—(a) blocking or sending on those files if the security tags are not found to be present in those files, or

(b) blocking the sending of those files if no security tags are found to be present in those files in which a security tag is present.

6.   (New) A computer system according to claim 1,

- one or more second connections for communication with an external network;

- one or more second gate devices coupled between the local network domain and the one or more second connections,

wherein the one or more second gate devices are configured to check files sent from the local network domain to the one or more second connections for whether the files contain security tags, and either

     (a)   to send the files to the one or more second connections if the security tags are not found to be present in the files, or

     (b)   to block the sending of the files if no security tags are found to be present in the files.